

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 LONDON 03178 131450Z

43

ACTION NEA-12

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8662

INFO SECDEF

CINCPAC

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

S E C R E T LONDON 03178

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: MARR, IO, UK, US

SUBJECT: JOURNALIST VISITS TO DIEGO GARCIA

REF: (A) STATE 48009 (B) LONDON 3041

1. CORMACK OF FCO TOLD US MARCH 12 THAT UK AGREES IN PRINCIPLE TO JOURNALIST VISIT PER REF (A). HMG STILL FEELS THAT IT WOULD BE BEST IF JOURNALIST FROM INDIA OR SRI LANKA WERE INCLUDED IN FORTHCOMING TRIP BUT WILL NOT OBJECT TO U.S. POSITION THAT FIRST GROUP INCLUDE ONLY REPRESENTATIVES OF BRITISH AND U.S. MEDIA. CORMACK SAID THAT HMG HOPES THAT THERE WILL BE A SUBSEQUENT VISIT TO INCLUDE AN INDIAN OR SRI LANKA CORRESPONDENT OR BOTH (AS WELL AS ANOTHER BRITISH JOURNALIST).

2. FCO HOPES THAT BRITISH REP WILL BE HORNSBY, NEW DELHI CORRESPONDENT OF LONDON TIMES. BUT THEY ARE LEAVING SELECTION TO UK HIGH COMMISSIONER. CORMACK ANTICIPATES THAT HIGH COMMISSIONER WILL STIMULATE HORNSBY OR SOME OTHER BRITISH JOURNALIST TO MAKE A REQUEST TO DOD TO VISIT DIEGO GARCIA.

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PAGE 02 LONDON 03178 131450Z

WE SUGGESTED THAT,

IN CONVERSATIONS WITH JOURNALISTS, HIGH COMMISSIONER
SHOULD NOT MAKE DIRECT REFERENCE TO FACT THAT A TRIP IS
BEING PLANNED BUT RATHER SHOULD ADVISE SELECTED JOURNA-
LIST TO MAKE A GENERAL REQUEST FOR VISIT.

SOHM

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NNN

Message Attributes

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